



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Mark Belton, Secretary*  
*Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary*

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Ms. Abigail Hopkins  
Baltimore District Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
10 S. Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

February 13, 2017

Dear Ms. Hopkins :

This letter is in reply to Federal agency comments sent on December 9, 2016 regarding the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit application to dredge five million bushels of oyster shells [CENAB-OP-RMN (MD DNR FISHERIES SERVICE/MAN O' WAR SHOAL DREDGING) 2009-61802-M04], resubmitted by DNR on July 17, 2015. The project purpose is to obtain a supply of shell to be used for the restoration of oyster populations and oyster fisheries in the Bay.

Your office requested information regarding the specifics of the dredging process, the structure of the bottom of the dredge cuts, revisions needed to the project map and "Attachment 1" that describes the dredging program, and two actions under the National Marine Fisheries Service (the EFH and ESA consultations). Our response is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Christopher Judy,  
Shellfish Division Director, DNR  
443-223-0472

cc:

Justin Bereznak, MDE